

Hattie Thomas/R7/USEPA/US

To

02/16/2012 04:51 PM

cc

bcc Karl Brooks

Subject OPA Daily Digest, 2/16/12

OPA Daily Digest for 2/16/12

Congressional Inquiries:

Rep. Todd Akin (Mo.) – Letter – 2/7/12: Concerns about soil test data and analysis conducted on Strecker Forest Development property in the city of Wildwood. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Rep. Lee Terry (Neb.) – Meeting 2/2/12: Requesting latest update on Omaha site and access agreements. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (open)

Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (Neb.): Meeting 2/2/12: Requesting information on Brownfield and Superfund sites in Nebraska. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (open)

Sen. Ben Nelson (Neb.): Meeting 2/3/12: Requesting that EPA attend a meeting with the Norfolk Chamber of Council – Green Council. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (open)

State Government Inquiries:

Legislative Liaison (Iowa) – Requesting informal review of multiple bills. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (open)

Press Inquiries:

St. Louis Beacon – Dave Bauer – 2/7/12: Questions about West Lake Landfill, Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

KWMU Public Radio, St. Louis – Maria Altman – 2/8/12: Questions about consent decree with Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, in context of EPA's series of workshops on integrated municipal stormwater and wastewater planning. Coordinated referral for reporter to interview source at EPA headquarters. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

Inside EPA - Suzanne Yohannan – 2/9/12: Questions regarding Kansas Army Ammunition Plant and pesticides. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (open)

KWMU Public Radio, St. Louis – Veronique LaCapra – 2/16/12: Questions about Carter Carburetor Site in St. Louis. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (open)

KSHB Ch. 41 Kansas City – Russ Ptacek – 2/16/12: Questions regarding Bannister Federal Complex. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

Kansas City Star – Mike McGraw – 2/16/12: Questions about civil enforcement actions involving large concentrated animal feeding operations. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (open)

WOWT-TV, Omaha – Leanne Morman - 2/15/12: Questions about paint fumes at a retail store in Omaha, Neb. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

KTIV-TV, Sioux City, Iowa – Forrest Saunders – 2/16/12: Questions about the status of E15. Contact:

Kris Lancaster, 7557 (open)

KMOX Radio – Michael Calhoun – 2/15/12: Attended Public Meeting in Wildwood regarding results of dust sampling and hydrogeologic assessment. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (closed)

Suburban Journals of Greater St. Louis – Mary Shapiro – 2/16/12: Requested information about Public Meeting in Wildwood, Mo., held 2/15/12. Requested number of attendees, topics of discussion, and next steps. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (closed)

Environmental Stories:

The Kansas City Star - GSA to leave Bannister complex for downtown Kansas City by 2014 - 2/15/12 - More than 1,000 government employees at the Bannister Federal Complex will be moving to downtown Kansas City by the end of 2014, ending an era at the sprawling former defense plant that dates back to 1943.
<http://www.kansascity.com/2012/02/15/3431198/gsa-to-vacate-bannister-complex.html>

KMBC Ch. 9 Kansas City - GSA To Leave Bannister Complex In 2014 - 2/15/12 - About 1,000 jobs will be leaving the Bannister Federal Complex for downtown Kansas City. The General Services Administration announced Wednesday it will relocate its jobs to offices downtown before the end of 2014.
<http://www.kmbc.com/money/30469593/detail.html>

Kansas City Business Journal - GSA will move 1,000 jobs to downtown Kansas City - 2/15/12 - The General Services Administration will move more than 1,000 employees into downtown Kansas City by 2014, vacating the Bannister Federal Complex and providing the city a much-needed economic development boost.
<http://www.bizjournals.com/kansascity/news/2012/02/15/gsa-will-move-1000-jobs-to-downtown.html>

KMOX Radio, St. Louis - EPA: Wildwood Houses Free of Dioxin Contamination - 2/15/12 - Try as they might, folks in Wildwood can't wash their hands of Russell Bliss. A lot of people still aren't ready to put his dioxin-spraying-spree into the history books. EPA representative Ben Washburn says his agency tested dust in both of the houses and come up with no concern.
<http://stlouis.cbslocal.com/2012/02/16/epa-wildwood-houses-free-of-dioxin-contamination/>

Des Moines Register - Wind energy loses in tax legislation - 2/16/12 - Windpower Magazine and other sources are reporting that extension of the 2-cent per megawatt hour production tax credit for wind energy projects has been excluded from the compromise Payroll Tax bill in congress.
<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2012/02/16/wind-energy-loses-in-tax-legislation/>

WOWT-TV, Neb. - Farm, Nebraska Agree to \$37,500 Civil Penalty - 2/15/12 - A Gage County livestock operation has reached a settlement with the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality.
http://www.wowt.com/news/headlines/Farm_Nebraska_Agree_To_37500_Civil_Penalty_139352523.html?storySection=story

Kansas City Star - KCP&L customers in St. Joseph to pay more to cover flood costs - 2/16/12 - Last year's flooding of the Missouri River is a memory, but it's providing a fresh jolt to KCP&L's customers in St. Joseph. Their electric bills are going up, and other customers' might eventually.
<http://www.kansascity.com/2012/02/15/3431687/kcpl-customers-in-st-joseph-to.html>

Associated Press - Dow agrees to clean dioxin-tainted properties - 2/16/12 - Michigan environmental regulators said Thursday that they reached a long-sought deal with Dow Chemical Co. to clean up to 1,400 residential properties in Midland, home of its corporate headquarters and a plant that polluted the area with dioxin for much of the past century.
<http://www.kansascity.com/2012/02/16/3432656/dow-agrees-to-clean-dioxin-tainted.html>

Farm Futures - MasterCop Fungicide/Bactericide Approved by EPA - 2/15/12 - MasterCop fungicide/bactericide, from MANA Crop Protection, has received approval by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for its new copper complex formulation of copper sulfate pentahydrate.
<http://farmfutures.com/story.aspx/mastercop-fungicide-bactericide-approved-epa-/13/57299>

Water and Wastewater - EPA Grant to Plattsburg for Drinking Water Improvements - 2/15/12 - EPA has awarded \$364,000 to Plattsburg, Mo., for improvements to its drinking water system. The project is expected to be completed by the summer of 2013.
http://www.waterandwastewater.com/www_services/news_center/publish/article_002645.shtml

Switchboard (NRDC) - It's the Solution Hiding in Plain Sight - 2/15/12 - It's the solution hiding in plain sight. Every year, billions of gallons of rainwater fall on our roofs. We let most of it drain onto sidewalks, streets, and parking lots. It picks up chemicals and other pollutants and ends up being dumped into our rivers and lakes. But if we harvested some of this rainwater instead of tossing it out, the benefits would be enormous.
http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/dbeckman/its_the_solution_hiding_in_plain_sight.html

Blog for Clean Air - Praise for a new climate change initiative, but... - 2/16/12 - We want to take a moment this morning to praise the new initiative being announced today at the State Department to reduce emissions of pollutants that hasten climate change.
<http://blogforcleanair.blogspot.com/2012/02/praise-for-new-climate-change.html>

E&E Daily - Obama budget calls for EPA to create electronic reporting system - 2/16/12 - Lawmakers this week expressed hope that a small provision buried in President Obama's 2013 budget proposal to change how U.S. EPA tracks hazardous waste will give "new life" to their parallel efforts on Capitol Hill. The president asked for \$2 million to establish the electronic manifest system.
<http://www.eenews.net/EEDaily/rss/2012/02/16/11>

E&E News PM - EPA has 1 month to propose stormwater rule - 2/15/12 - U.S. EPA has until March 16 to unveil new stormwater regulations that would force newly developed property to absorb rainfall rather than sending it to sewer systems.
<http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/rss/2012/02/15/12>

The New York Times - Leak Offers Glimpse of Campaign Against Climate Science - 2/15/12 - Leaked documents suggest that an organization known for attacking climate science is planning a new push to undermine the teaching of global warming in public schools, the latest indication that climate change is becoming a part of the nation's culture wars.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/16/science/earth/in-heartland-institute-leak-a-plan-to-discredit-climate-teaching.html>

Also Dot Earth, Forbes, MSNBC, Guardian, Quark Soup (blog), Australian ABC, Sydney Morning Herald, Washington Post, Mother Jones

Society of Environmental Journalists (Tipsheet) - Consortium Launches Web Site on Feedlot Air Pollution - 2/16/12 - In an effort to spur facility owners and operators to voluntarily reduce emissions, a consortium of organizations has developed a tool that allows the owner/operator to figure out how changing on-site practices can reduce emissions of ammonia, methane, volatile organic compounds, hydrogen sulfide, fine particulates, and odors.
<http://www.sej.org/publications/tipsheet/consortium-launches-web-site-feedlot-air-pollution>

Politico - Rep. Steve King: Wind energy: Iowa model for success - 2/16/12 - Low, stable tax rates generate jobs and economic growth. This idea has been the bedrock of conservative economic ideology for decades. One industry that represents this essential conservative principle is U.S. wind energy.
<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0212/72954.html>

ClimateWire - 6 countries agree to move on short-lived 'climate forcers' - 2/16/12 - Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton today will announce a \$15 million, six-country coalition dedicated to curbing non-carbon dioxide pollutants that cause global warming.
<http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/rss/2012/02/16/3>

Environmental Defense Fund - Mercury and Air Toxics Standards Published Today - 2/16/12 - It's official! The historic Mercury and Air Toxics Standards for power plants were published in the Federal Register. That means the official, final rule is now available to the public for the first time. It also means we've taken another crucial step towards putting these lifesaving standards into effect.

<http://blogs.edf.org/climate411/2012/02/16/mercury-and-air-toxics-standards-published-today/>

NRDC Switchboard - Let Loose the Defenders of Mercury Poisoning - 2/16/12 - If your neighborhood utility industry lobbyist looks a little more harried than usual, it's because today, February 16th, is yet another reminder to power companies that they, like other industries, are finally going to have to clean up their mercury and toxic air pollution to protect America's communities and children.

http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/jwalke/if_your_neighborhood_utility_i.html

Biofuels Digest - BP: cellulosic ethanol is real, here, and no pixie dust - 2/16/12 - In Washington, BP Biofuels North America President Sue Ellerbusch, interviewed in the Biofuel STAT online series produced by the Advanced Biofuels Association, rejected recent headlines describing the industry as "pixie dust" by declaring "the technology works."

<http://www.biofuelsdigest.com/bdigest/2012/02/16/bp-cellulosic-ethanol-is-real-here-and-no-pixie-dust/>

Press Release - Bennet, Moran Make Bipartisan Push to Extend Wind Energy Tax Credit - 2/15/12 - With thousands of wind-energy jobs in Colorado and Kansas hanging in the balance, U.S. Senators Michael Bennet (D-CO) and Jerry Moran (R-KS) are making a bipartisan push to extend a wind energy tax credit that is currently set to expire at the end of 2012 if Congress fails to act.

<http://bennet.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/?id=8144c6d5-d28d-48c9-978f-7976f86d5aab>

BNA - Inhofe Introduces Resolution of Disapproval To Nullify Power Plant Mercury Standards - 2/16/12 - Sen. James M. Inhofe (R-Okla.) introduced a joint resolution Feb. 16 to disapprove EPA's mercury and air toxics standards for power plants. The resolution, if passed by Congress and signed into law, would nullify the regulation, which EPA published Feb. 16.

http://news.bna.com/deln/lpages/lpages.adp?pg=breaking_news&bn_product=deln#urn:bn:a0d0u1r5u3

BNA - Farm Bill Should Include Biofuels Tax Credit, Depreciation Allowance, Ethanol Group Says - 2/16/12 - The farm bill for 2012 should include an extension of the tax credit for biofuel producers and a special depreciation allowance for biofuel plant property, an ethanol coalition told lawmakers in a letter dated Feb. 14.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=24644187&vname=dennotallissues&fn=24644187&jd=a0d0t2y7m8&split=0

BNA - With Mercury Rules Imminent, Challenges Are Expected to Focus on Key EPA Finding - 2/16/12 - EPA will publish final mercury and air toxics standards for power plants Feb. 16, and industry groups and states are expected to challenge the agency's finding that it is "appropriate and necessary" to regulate such emissions.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=24644198&vname=dennotallissues&fn=24644198&jd=a0d0t3t8h2&split=0

BNA - Proposal on Backup Generating Engines Would Increase Emissions, Commenters Say - 2/16/12 - A plan by EPA to allow stationary engines generating electricity to quadruple their annual operations would increase air pollution and skew competition in electricity markets, several commenters told the agency.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=24644179&vname=dennotallissues&fn=24644179&jd=a0d0t2x4g9&split=0

Inside EPA - EPA, State Target Black Carbon - 2/16/12 - EPA, the State Department and United Nations Feb. 16 announced a new global climate and clean air coalition aimed at curbing emissions of black carbon, methane and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) as a way to help slow global warming and limit air pollution.

<http://insideepa.com/201202162390530/EPA-Blog/The-Inside-Story/epa-state-target-black-carbon/menu-i>

[d-97.html](#)

Inside EPA - EPA Proposes Giving States More Time To Meet 2008 Ozone Air Standard - 2/16/12 - EPA is proposing to give states extra time to meet the agency's 2008 ozone air standard by offering regulators the chance to wait until they have data from three full ozone seasons to determine compliance. <http://insideepa.com/201202162390548/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-proposes-giving-states-more-time-to-meet-2008-ozone-air-standard/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - Order Rejecting PM NAAQS Deadline Shifts Focus To District Court Suits - 2/16/12 - A federal appeals court has denied states' and activists' request to impose a hard legal deadline for EPA to issue a revised particulate matter (PM) air standard, shifting focus to pending federal district court lawsuits also seeking to force a court-ordered deadline for the standard by claiming that under the Clean Air Act the rule is overdue. <http://insideepa.com/201202162390549/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/order-rejecting-pm-naaqs-deadline-shifts-focus-to-district-court-suits/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - EPA Readies 'Connectivity' Study To Bolster Clean Water Jurisdiction Policy - 2/16/12 - EPA is readying an analysis of existing studies showing how navigable waters may be connected to "headwater streams" and isolated wetlands, an effort that could help the agency justify its pending policy clarifying when the Clean Water Act (CWA) grants regulators jurisdiction over such marginal waterbodies. <http://insideepa.com/201202162390550/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-readies-connectivity-study-to-bolster-clean-water-jurisdiction-policy/menu-id-95.html>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

2/17/12 – Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: David Cozad, 7587, and Julia Cacho, 7071

2/29-3/2/12 – 2012 Combined Federal Campaign Training, San Antonio, Texas. Contacts: Mark Hague, 7546, and Julia Cacho, 7071

* **3/6/12** - Radio Interview for Smoke Management Series with Eric Atkinson, K-State University, Regional Office. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

* **3/14/12** - EPIC Training, Regional Office. Contact: Wolfgang Brandner, 7381

* **3/19/12** - Underground Storage Tanks Program National Conference, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Margaret Stockdale, 7936 and Julia Cacho, 7071

3/28/12 – Joint Annual Conference of the American Water Works Association and Missouri Water Environment Association, Osage Beach, Mo. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071, Karen Flournoy, 7782

4/24/12 – Washington University – Environmental Policy Course, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Beckie Himes, 7253, and Julia Cacho, 7071

5/3/12 – St. Louis Regional Chamber and Growth Association Energy and Environment Council Meeting, St. Louis, Mo. Contacts: Becky Weber, 7487 and Julia Cacho, 7071

RA/Immediate Office

2/23/12 - Agricultural Business Council Monthly Meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Josh Svaty, 7202

2/29/12 - Upper Mississippi River Meeting, Davenport, Iowa. Contact: Josh Svaty, 7202

3/13/12 - Northeast Nebraska Stakeholders, West Point, Neb. Contact: Josh Svaty, 7202

Other Events

AWMD

2/21/12 - Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Outreach to the Producers Cooperative Association, Girard, Kan. Contact: Alan Hancock, 7647.

2/22/12 – East-West Gateway Meeting of Air Quality Stakeholders, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Amy Bhesania, 7147.

2/21/12 – Meeting with P2 Program members, USDA, Iowa DNR and Small Business Administration, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Marcus Rivas, 7669.

3/1/12 - Commission on Emergency Planning and Response Meeting, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Fatima Ndiaye, 7383.

3/9/12 – Redistribution of EPA Region 7 outreach materials to Education Network members, Regional Office. Contact: Marcus Rivas, 7669.

3/27 – 29/12 - Annual WORKS Conference on Recycling, Household Hazardous Waste, Energy from Waste and Composting Conference, Dodge City, Kan. Contact: James Callier, 7646

3/28/12 - SPCC Outreach to the Eastern Kansas Oil and Gas Association, Ottawa, Kan. Contact: Alan Hancock, 7647.

3/28/12 - Eastern Kansas Oil and Gas Association, EPCRA outreach meeting, Ottawa, Kan. Contact: Fatima Ndiaye, 7383.

4/3-5/12 - Kansas Local Emergency Planning Committee conference, Salina, Kan. Contact: Fatima Ndiaye, 7383.

4/26/12 - SPCC Outreach to Sunbelt Environmental, Springfield, Mo. Contact: Alan Hancock, 7647.

CNSL

2/29 - 3/2/12 - Advanced Civil Environmental Enforcement Seminar, Columbia, S.C. Contact: David Cozad, 7587

3/12 - 15/12 - FEM/TEM meeting, Denver, Colo. Contact: Alyse Stoy, 7826

ECO/EJ

None

ENSV

None

PLMG

2/28/12 - Society of American Military Engineers Industry Day Education and Training Workshop, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Chester Stovall, 7549

RA/OPA

2/21/12 – Carter Carburetor Superfund Site, Third Roundtable Discussion, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Belinda Young, 7463

2/21-23/12 – Community Interviews, Compass Plaza Well Site, Rogersville, Mo. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

2/27/12 – Public Availability Session, 10th Street Site, Columbus Neb. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

2/28/12 – Public Meeting, Chemplex Site, Camanche, Iowa. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

3/6/12 – Meeting with IDNR Legislative Liaison, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199

3/7/12 – Meetings with the offices of US Senators Harkin and Grassley, and US Reps Boswell and Latham, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199

3/8/12 – Attend Iowa Legislature Committee meetings, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199

SUPR

2/24/12 - Mercury and HazCat Training for First Responders, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Eric Nold, 7488

2/28/12 - Public Meeting at 10th Street Superfund Site, Columbus, Neb. Contact: Eric Nold, 7488

3/1/12 - Kansas Commission on Emergency Planning and Response (CEPR) meeting, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Mary Peterson, 7882

3/13-14/12 - FEMA's Regional Interagency Steering Committee (RISC) meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Dave Williams, 7625

4/10-12/12 - Oil Program Manager's meeting, Washington, D.C. Contact: Scott Hayes, 7670

3/27-29/12 - OSC Readiness Training Board meeting, location TBD. Contact: Scott Hayes, 7670

4/17-19/12 - Region 7 Regional Response Team meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Janice Kroone, 7005

5/1-3/12 - National Response Team/Regional Response Team Co-Chairs meeting, location TBD, Contact: Janice Kroone, 7005

WWPD

2/18/12 - Kansas Inter-Agency Review Team meeting, El Dorado, Kan. Contacts: Jason Daniels, 7443,

Darin Banks, 7224

2/22/12 - Kansas State Technical Committee meeting regarding the Natural Resources Conservation Service's new water quality initiative, Salina, Kan. Contact: Steve Schaff, 7447

2/28-29/12 - Kansas Water Conference, Wichita, Kan. Contact: Kurt Hildebrandt, 7413, David Garrett, 7159

3/1/12 - Kansas Rural Water Association workplan meeting, Manhattan, Kan. Contact: Stephanie Lindberg, 7423

3/5-7/12 - 2012 Iowa Water Conference, Ames, Iowa. Contacts: Steve Kovac, 7698, John Reyna, 7021

3/12-15/12 - Joint Water Quality Standards Meeting, Washington, D.C. Contacts: John DeLashmit, 7821, Ann Lavaty, 7370

3/26-29/12 - 2012 Kansas Rural Water Association Annual Conference, Wichita, Kan. Contact: Doug Brune, 7178

4/16-20/12 - National TMDL/303(d) Coordinators Meeting, San Francisco, Calif. Contacts: Tabatha Adkins, 7128, Bruce Perkins, 7067

Hattie L. Thomas
Deputy Director
Office of Public Affairs
EPA Region 7
901 N. Fifth Street
Kansas City, KS 66101
Ph: 913-551-7762, Fax: 913-551-7066